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From: JLucas1099@aol.com [mailto:JLucas1099@aol.com]

Sent: Wed 5/14/2008 10:28 PM

To: bdcpccomments

Cc:

Subject: Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/EIS scoping comments

Ms. Delores Brown, Chief
Office of Environmental Compliance
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Ms. Delores Brown,

In regards comments on scope of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/EIS please consider the following:

~ Are the six chosen environmental organizations representative of California citizenry and user groups, or are they more backroom negotiators and lawyers. Ducks Unlimited and California Assn. of Fly Fishermen are two user groups who should definitely be at the table, and also Audubon and a representative of boaters. California Native Plant Society could contribute to considerations of habitat and water conservation criteria. The steering committee appears to be front loaded with water supply agencies and agribusiness which will likely politicize discussions and make it difficult to achieve resource protection and conservative water use.

~ Water Districts are considering how best to get Delta water delivery of 15,000 cfs when present 10,000 cfs at Clifton Court Forebay has already stressed historic fisheries into a state of collapse. How can a BDCP EIR/EIS process start off with a sound reality check before wasting millions of tax dollars on pipedreams? Can this EIR/EIS review projected consumer use data provided by water retailers and districts in sufficient detail as to be credible? ie SF PUC upgrade EIS/EIR had some inflated data from retailers rather than cities.

~ In regards agribusiness, for water allocation, can a priority point system be established whereby a crop, such as rice, that will provide food and refugia for migratory waterfowl after the crop has been harvested will rank higher, than say a crop that can not provide secondary or tertiary benefits from considerable amounts of water used? Orchards, when flooded, can return water to rivers and underground aquifers without contributing to buildup of toxins so should receive a higher priority than a crop so heavily fertilized that drainage creates another Kesterson (still to be cleaned up after 25 years). By California water law sufficient base flows need to be guaranteed in streams and rivers to support beneficial instream uses, to convey sediment and to support a continuous riparian canopy. The State fishery has stronger historic priority than agribusiness and this EIR/EIS needs to establish estuary standards that will return salmon and steelhead runs to all tributaries. (Water Districts that can prove they are restoring local coldwater fisheries by management of seasonal releases needed by anadromous fish and not diverting critical flows or causing drybacks as fish are spawning, should rank higher for water allocations, especially in drought years, than Districts that cannot.)

~ Please establish uplands habitat goals, as well as wetlands habitat goals usable for Estuary watersheds that can be easily adhered to at every stage and level of this Bay Delta Conservation Plan. HCPs can be streamlined in manner that only one or two species in development acreage are addressed which may not be indicator species for full spectrum of biodiversity found at site. It is essential that full CEQA review is routine, and that mitigation for impacts to one species does not compound habitat loss at expense of other species. Appropriate public hearings and review can identify data discrepancies that a resource scientist may miss.

~ It would be highly beneficial, in light of the Migratory Bird Act and State compliance with international law, that this EIR/EIS establish baseline for volume of forage that each resident species and migratory waterfowl needs to sustain a healthy life cycle and/or complete its commute from Latin America to Alaska. That would be the amount of forage for necessary weight gain during time of layover in San Francisco Estuary, times the approximate numbers of birds of each species, be it thousands or tens of thousands, and what acreage and calibre of crop or wetlands is necessary to accomplish this. (Would recommend Suisun Marsh RCD data.)

There are other concerns but this selection will have to do for present. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan EIR/EIS undertaking.

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